



BUDGET WEEK

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation
scheduled for the House floor

14 March 2006

Week of 13 March 2006

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

1) **To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 122 South Bill Street in Francesville, Indiana, as the "Malcolm Melville 'Mac' Lawrence Post Office"** (H.R. 4346). 

This bill does not affect direct spending – spending not subject to appropriations – or revenue.

2) **To Amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to Modify Temporarily Certain Rates of Duty, to Make Other Technical Amendments to the Trade Laws, and for Other Purposes.** 

This bill modifies import duties and tariffs, with the net effect being a reduction in duties collected. Although the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] has not prepared a formal cost estimate, the bill is expected to reduce revenue by approximately \$500 million over 2006-10. The bill is not expected to violate the Congressional Budget Act.

3) **A Bill to Waive the Passport Fees for a Relative of a Deceased Member of the Armed Forces Proceeding Abroad to Visit the Grave of Such Member or to Attend a Funeral or Memorial Service for Such Member** (S. 1184). 

This bill waives passport fees for certain relatives of deceased members of the Armed Forces traveling abroad to visit the servicemembers' graves or to attend funeral or memorial services for the deceased servicemembers. Under current law, these passport fees are recorded as revenue. CBO estimates that enactment of this bill would have no significant impact on the Federal budget.

4) **Expressing the Sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation Should Fully Protect the Freedoms of All Religious Communities Without Distinction, Whether Registered and Unregistered, as Stipulated by the Russian Constitution and International Standards** (H.Con.Res. 190). 

This resolution has no budget implications.

5) **To Amend the Ojito Wilderness Act to Make a Technical Correction** (H.R. 4841). 

This bill alters a boundary line in the Ojito wilderness so that about 1,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management [BLM] land can be sold to the Zia Indians. Because BLM already had designated the land as available for disposal, the bill is not expected to affect direct spending or revenue.

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. *Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.*

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

6) **Permitting the Use of the Rotunda of the Capitol for a Ceremony as Part of the Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust** (H.Con.Res. 350).



This resolution has no budget implications.

7) **To Extend Through December 31, 2006, the Authority of the Secretary of the Army to Accept and Expend Funds Contributed by Non-Federal Public Entities to Expedite the Processing of Permits** (H.R. 4826).



This bill extends the authority of the Army Corps of Engineers [Corps] to issue permits to other entities to perform work in navigable waters. The fees paid to the Corps are classified as offsetting receipts – offsets against direct spending. Because the Corps may spend these fees without further appropriations, the net effect on direct spending is negligible. The bill does not affect revenue.

8) **Higher Education Extension Act of 2006** (H.R. 4911).



This bill reauthorizes various Federal higher education programs of the Higher Education Act of 1965 for an additional 3 months, through 30 June 2006. Under current law, these programs are scheduled to expire on 31 March 2006. Because CBO already assumes permanent extension of these programs in its baseline, the bill does not affect direct spending or revenue.

9) **A Bill to Extend the Educational Flexibility Program Under Section 4 of the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999** (S. 2363).



This bill extends the authority of the Secretary of Education to carry out the education flexibility program for certain States until the enactment of a law that reauthorizes programs under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-10). The extension authority applies for any State that was an Ed-Flex Partnership State on 30 September 2004. CBO has not prepared an official cost estimate for this measure, but it is not expected to affect direct spending or revenue.

10) **Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans Should Participate in a Moment of Silence to Reflect Upon the Service and Sacrifice of Members of the United States Armed Forces Both at Home and Abroad** (H.Res. 698).



This resolution has no budget implications.

11) **Expressing the Continued Support of Congress for Requiring an Institution of Higher Education to Provide Military Recruiters with Access to the Institution's Campus and Students at Least Equal in Quality and Scope to that which is Provided to Any Other Employer in Order to Be Eligible for the Receipt of Certain Federal Funds** (H.Con.Res. 354).



This resolution has no budget implications.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Bill: **Online Freedom of Speech Act** (H.R. 1606).



Committee: House Administration

Summary: This bill amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to exclude communications over the Internet from the meaning of “public communication” subject to the Act.

Cost: At the time of publication, a formal cost estimate was not available. Enacting this bill is not expected to have a significant impact on the Federal budget.

Budget Act: This bill is not expected to violate the Congressional Budget Act.

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Bill: *Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006.* 

Committee: Appropriations

Summary: On 8 March 2006, the Committee on Appropriations ordered reported a bill providing \$91 billion in supplemental funds – for defense, the war against terrorism, and hurricane recovery – \$1.2 billion less than the administration’s request. The bill includes \$67.88 billion for the costs of the war in Iraq, \$19.05 billion for relief and recovery from the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes and another \$4.10 billion for other items. The Committee also agreed to several amendments. One is aimed at blocking the acquisition by DP World of the six American port terminals. A second makes available in fiscal year 2006 the contingency portion of the \$1 billion in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program [LIHEAP] funding contained in the Deficit Reduction Act.

Cost: At the time of publication, a formal cost estimate was not available.

Budget Act: Because the provisions included in this bill contain an emergency designation – which exempts its provisions from budgetary disciplines – the associated costs are not considered for purposes of enforcement of the Congressional Budget Act.